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[R. E. Fritts, preface] (1972)

Early History of Cowden and Vicinity,
[Shelby, County, Ill.], 1801-1920.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

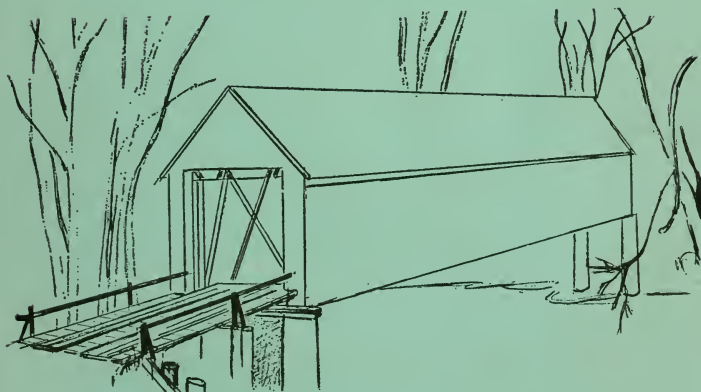


EARLY HISTORY
of

COWDEN

and Vicinity

1801 - 1920



Cowden Covered Bridge Constructed 1868
COWDEN, ILLINOIS

1872 **CENTENNIAL** 1972

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

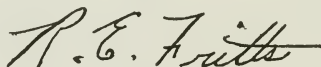
Preface

This is small town America. It tells of the conceiving, birth, and the first 50 years of its growth. It is no different than hundreds of small communities except the outstanding individual people who made history and caused incidents, that I have attempted to describe and portray, so that the heritage of our town will not be forgotten by future generations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who contributed information for this book and I'm sorry that I could use only a small portion of this information due to lack of space and money for printing.

I especially want to thank my wife, Nyle, for continually prodding me into finishing this, without it, it would never have been done.

R. E. Fritts

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. E. Fritts". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end.

Mayor, Village of Cowden

WILLIAMSBURG BEFORE IT WAS

Many stories have been written about Shelby County's historical glacial deposit, Williamsburg Hill. One that most historians have missed in the story, is one of the oldest graves in this part of the country, a burial that took place before the cemetery was established. The grave fifty years ago was a pile of rock and a larger slab with an inscription: "Here lies entombed, E. Donnell, wife of F. Donnell. Died Sept. 12, 1801, A. 24 Y, 4m, 12d." The numbers 1777 were also carved on one side presumable indicating the year of birth.

Tradition says the woman was the wife of a hunter or perhaps the captive of Indians, who camped here long ago.

EARLY HISTORY OF VILLAGE OF COWDEN, DRY POINT AND VICINITY

The first settlement in Shelby County at The Hill, which was later called Williamsburg Hill, occurred in 1818, the year Illinois became a state. The first entry on July 19, 1821 to Charles Wakefield, Sr. entered title to 80 acres in Sec. 13, Town 10 range 2 East and is listed in entry Book A at Vandalia. At this time Shelby County had not been organized and this area was in Fayette County.

In the spring of 1818, Mr. Wakefield with eight other families, paddled up the Kaskaskia from St. Clair County and picked out what appeared at that time to be the most likely looking spot in the state. In the colony were Wakefield's Married sons, Simeon, John, and Enoch, and their families, his then single son, Charles, Jr. and a son-in-law, Ormsby Vanwinkle and his family; Lemuel Hawkins and family, Arthur Crocker and family and "Widow" Petties and her children.

Three things caused them to choose the hill for their settlement. It commanded a view of the surrounding country for miles, hence they could be warned of the approach of hostile Indians. From several places on the hill flowed springs of fresh cold water that gave the settlement and present township their name, Cold Spring. Most important was the fact that lowlands surrounding the hill were at all times swampy, much of the time under several feet of water.

Jonathan C. Corley came to Cold Spring settlement in 1823. "Doc" Rooks, who came to Cold Spring as late as 1830 and gathered herbs by the light of the moon, did a flourishing business in caring for chills and fever. The malaria germ had not been discovered, though it abounded in the swamps nearby. Simeon Wakefield built a horse powered grist mill at which he did a thriving business for 10 years. He also opened a store in 1828. Atop the ridge, Moses Storey opened a school in 1821. Nearby a clearing was made, and Peter Cartwright began conducting camp meetings. Not far away another clearing was made, and in it were made graves for the first two colonists who died. Slabs of sandstone were used to cover the graves for the double purpose of tombstone and protection against the wolves.

In 1827 the County of Shelby was established. A stage coach started between Shelbyville and Vandalia and a tavern served as a stage coach stop in Williamsburg. This stagecoach ran on the old angling road, which was called . . .? In the fall of 1839 William Horsman and Dr. Thomas H. Williams laid out a town at Cold Spring and changed the name of the place to Williamsburg. The first store was opened by John M. Frizzell and Jake Hart, brothers-in-law, who had come from Ohio with less than \$100 capital. Horsman opened a saloon and Dr. Williams succeeded to the practice of Herb Doctor Rooks. Before long Dr. Williams was doing a thriving business in treating injuries that soon became incident to brawls which arose in Horsman's saloon.

"The Deep Snow"

One of the important epochs in the early history of this part of Illinois was what was familiarly known as the Deep Snow, which occurred in the winter of 1830-31. The measurement in the timber was four to five feet. For weeks the settlers were virtually buried in their cabins and only went forth as food and fuel demanded. A large portion of the stock perished from cold and starvation. The wild game, such as deer, prairie chicken, quail, etc., was found in immense numbers frozen in their tracks.

"The Sudden Freeze"

This occurred in January 1836. It was one of those sudden changes, a regular "Manitoba Wave" that only occurs once in several decades. Up to noon, of the day of this phenomenon, it was rather warm than otherwise; in fact, it had been raining some. Soon after mid-day the storm broke forth, when every puff of wind seemed to be borne from the point of an icicle. Boiling water cast into the air came to the ground a sheet of ice. Some old settlers say that the frogs had not time to pull their heads below. One tells us that in passing over a pond, a day or so afterwards, he kicked off by actual measurement, the heads of a bushel and a half of frogs. (History of Shelby County)

In 1824 Levi Casey, a native of South Carolina, settled on Robinson Creek which was later Dry Point Twp.

The second marriage in Shelby County, after Illinois became a state, was John Hall to Eliza Cawly on Oct. 4, 1827.

Assessment of Property in Shelby County in the year of 1827:

Ordered by the court, that a tax of one-half per cent, be levied on the following property:

On slaves indentured and registered negroes, mulatto servants, pleasure carriages, distilleries, stock in trade, on all horses, mules, asses and neat cattle—three-years old and upward, on watches with their appendages, and all other personal property except household furniture, etc.
Dec. 3, 1827, First license granted to keep a grocery.

On application of Elias Miller of Shelby County, to keep a grocery, commonly called a tippling shop, in said county, near Shelbyville, at the dwelling house of said Miller, it is granted him, on the said Elias Miller entering into bond in the penal sum of two hundred dollars with John Thomason, his security, and the said Miller paying into the county treasury the sum of five dollars. Therefore ordered that the following tavern rates be established in the County of Shelby, vis:

For keeping horse twenty-four hours	37½ Cents
For keeping horse one night	25 "
For dinner	25 "
For breakfast or supper	25 "
For lodging one night	6½ "
For one-half pint of brandy	25 "
For half-pint of rum, gin and cordial	25 "
For half-pint whisky	12½ "
For horse feed	12½ "

THE NAMING OF DRY POINT TOWNSHIP

About the year 1840, John Thompson, grandfather of Joe E. Thompson of Cowden, sold his farm east of the Okaw to John Middlesworth and bought a tract of

CONGRATULATIONS COWDEN
ON CENTENNIAL

Cowden
Building and Loan
Association

INCORPORATED 1913

Cowden, Illinois

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CLAUDE PHIPPS, Vice-President
T. A. MOORE, Secretary
F. J. CIHAK, Treasurer
JOHN J. BAKER, Jr., Atty.

Directors:

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C. E. BANNING FRED HUDSON
C. E. WAGNER REID BUCHANAN
F. J. CIHAK T. A. MOORE
WOODROW W. LORTON

wild land in the north of Section 33 10-3 and built a cabin on the east side of the creek and moved his family into it. So far were they from anyone that they were even out of sight of the smoke from their neighbor's dwelling.

Soon after moving there, they were visited by Stinson Barr, who after looking over their location, asked the boys what they called their new home and they replied, "we call it the point place." "Well", said Stinson, "I think it is a dry point." The boys accepted handle to the name of their new home and it was known as Dry Point ever afterward, to distinguish it from Welch Point where Cowden is now located, and Hodson's Point, a few miles north of Cowden.

In 1860, after township organization, the County Court gave the name of Dry Point to this municipal towship.

The early settlers located along the river and creek bottoms in the timbered country, thinking the thousands of acres of prairie lands adjacent of little value.

Aside from the coming and going of these hunters, other parties, the advance guard of a genuine civilization, real home seekers were early attracted to this township. Among them: Samuel Hall, who came from St. Clair county in 1821; his sons were John, Jehu, Thomas, Samuel and William. From the same county also came David Beck in 1823, Charles Wakefield in 1826, William Crocker, John Crocker, Jacob Breuer, and Elijah Bangston, ranging from 1821 to 1826. These all settled along Mitchell Creek in the western part of the township. Dr. Johnston, an Indian herb doctor, practiced medicine among them as early as 1827. His favorite remedies were "Blackstrap", a syrup made of white walnut bark, and "Blue Tea", which was death on fever and "ager". It is related of the doctor that he combined much of the superstition with his practice claiming that some herbs, in order to possess medicinal virtues, must be collected at midnight and under certain phases of the moon. William B. Sullivan from Tennessee, located on the farm where he yet resides, in 1831. (This is one-quarter mile west of No. 6 school). His first post office was Vandalia, and as he facetiously says, the second was Uncle Joe Oliver's hat. Samuel Hall was probably the first person born in the township. His parents lived on section 18 at the time, which was 1823. Children of the early times attended a school several miles distant, in Cold Spring township, taught by John Perryman. The earliest teaching was in the year 1830. In 1834 Elias Bissen, an Englishman, taught in the Brewer neighborhood, as it was called. Samuel Thompson, afterwards a presiding elder, was among the first preachers.

In the eastern part of the township, along the Kaskaskia, settlements were made at a later date; the first being by Jeremiah Banning, who came from Virginia in 1828 and settled on Section 35, R 10. The Indians had just vacated their wigwams, which were on the lake, on what was known as the Ferrell place, and taken their departure from happy hunting grounds before the approach of the pale face.

The first marriage was of James Corson to Keziah Crocker, in December, 1828, by Squire Simeon Wakefield, at what was known as the Cole heirs place, on Section 25, near the Boiling Spring. The mother of the bride wouldn't permit her daughter to be married at home, saying it was bad luck; she had had other daughters to run away and marry against her will, and now, Keziah shouldn't marry there either; hence, they sought the shades that sequester the Boiling Springs, where the ceremony was performed.

The first birth in this settlement, was that of Mary E. Banning on March 14, 1829.

C. M. Banning taught in the neighborhood of Thompson Mill, simultaneously with Elias Bissin.

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Directors:

C. L. Moore, Chairman
John J. Baker, Jr. Robert E. Moore
Charles F. Holley Woodrow Lorton
T. A. Moore

Among those who enlisted in the Black Hawk War in 1832 from Shelby County was John Hall. William Hall was the first magistrate; Simeon Wakefield the second.

Joseph Foulkes was the first preacher. He belonged to the Methodist Church, and was universally beloved.

THE THOMPSON MILL



The first mill was built by Higgins & Thompson on the Kaskaskia in 1843. It supplied a want, long felt, as a corn and saw mill for the neighborhood. Prior to its erection, parties had a long distance to go to mill, and it is related that flies were so bad on the prairies that persons were compelled to travel to and from the mill by night time. The mill was destroyed and rebuilt in 1862. A post office, called Hart, was opened at the mill in 1860. It was kept by W. Jackson Banning.

In 1900 Minton Lankford bought the mill and ran it until 1914 along with a general store on the same site. The mill was torn down in 1914.

The first Supervisors of Dry Point Township were: Wm. J. Milton, elected in 1860; William Neil, elected in 1864; J. S. Roberts, elected in 1865; William J. Milton, elected in 1866; S. Severns, elected in 1867; J. S. Roberts, elected in 1868; W. A. Carlisle, elected in 1869; B. A. Virden, elected in 1870; L. G. Torrence, elected in 1871; J. S. Roberts, elected in 1872, reelected in 1873; L. G. Torrence, elected in 1874; G. W. Cleveland, elected in 1875, reelected in 1876 and 1877.

In 1827 Dry Point Township was one of the largest townships of the County. It included what is now Dry Point and Lakewood Townships.

In December, 1859, it was ordered by the court to divide Shelby County into Towns or Townships and the first election of Supervisors occurred in April, 1860.

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COVERED BRIDGE

The covered bridge was erected in the year 1868 downstream from the old Thompson mill and remains of the old dam are still visible. This bridge is 157 feet long, including the approaches. It was built in Michigan and shipped to Shelbyville, and from there was hauled by wagons to the site. It is a suspension-type, anchored by horizontal bars. It was erected at a cost of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500). Thompson Mill bridge once played an important part in transportation in this area. The bridge is situated on a road which was once the main highway from Springfield to Taylorville to Effingham. Many reasons are given as to why the structures are covered, one was that the covering had something to do with strengthening the structure and to make the wood season properly and last longer. Another reason for covered bridges, the most romantic, is that bridges were built to appear like a barn to keep the horses from shying at the running water, but it is known to be a favorite stopping place for lovers and it is said that many a proposal of marriage was made on this bridge. A small community of log houses flourished there and the little town was called Thompsonville.

On Oct. 2, 1867 at a meeting of the board of Supervisors, the following petition was presented:

We the undersigned Commissioners of the Highway for the Town of Dry Point do hereby petition to the County Board of Supervisors for an appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) for to build a bridge across the Okaw River at Lillies Mill on the State road leading from Springfield, via Taylorville, to Effingham. This 5th day of Sept. A. D. 1867. Signed: J. N. Giles, John Fowler.

June 3, 1868, at a meeting of the board of Supervisors, the following report was filed:

We report that we recommend an appropriation of \$2,000 for the building of a bridge at or near Lillies Mill across the Okaw River in Dry Point Township and we are of the opinion \$2,000 is not sufficient to build a good and substantial bridge at that point, and we further recommend a further appropriation of \$500 provided the bridge is built on good rock abutments, the bridge to be let and constructed under the superintendence of the Commissioner of Highways of Dry Point Township, with the addition of two suitable men to be appointed by your Board, to act in conjunction with them. We further recommend that said bridge is to be completed on or before Nov. 1, 1868 or this appropriation to be forfeited—and further that said bridge be accepted or rejected by a committee appointed by your Board for that purpose, all of which is respectfully submitted. Signed: James Bromlee, Chairman.

Upon Motion, the report was received and approved and the Chairman then appointed Messrs Roissler, Roberts and Leathers as the Committee to receive the Dry Point Bridge or bridge across the Okaw River at or near Lillies Mill and the chair also appointed William I. Milton and John Fancher as committee to act in conjunction with the commissioners of Highways of the Town of Dry Point in Superintending the construction of said bridge.

The first railroad in Dry Point Township was the Springfield and Pana R. R. This road enters Shelby County on the west line of Section 19, Tower Hill Township, and its course is due east until it reaches the Village of Tower Hill. Here the line diversifies from an eastern to a south-eastern course, and traversed the townships of Tower Hill, Cold Spring and Dry Point. The stations in this county are Tower Hill, Lakewood, Cowden and Holliday. This road was formerly known as the Springfield and Pana R.R., afterwards as the Springfield and South-eastern R.R. and on the first day of April, 1875 was sold to the O. & M. R. R. Company (Ohio

CONGRATS COWDEN!

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& Mississippi). It was built under a charter obtained in 1865, and completed in 1870. The first construction train to run from Pana to Springfield was on the 28th of Oct., 1869. The first through train from Beardstown to Shawneetown, was run on the 28th of March, 1872. The first depot in Cowden was erected on the east side of Grand Blvd., directly south of what is now known as the Nickle Plate R.R.

In 1879 the personal property assessed in Dry Point Township included the following: Horses 955, neat cattle 1400, mules and asses 115, sheep 869, hogs 3326, steam engines 3, fire and burglar-proof safes, carriages and wagons 369, watches and clocks 337, Sewing and Knitting machines 157, Piano Fortes 4, Property of Saloons and eating houses 5, Household and other furniture 6335, Number of dogs 395. The total value of personal property was \$115,935. The number of sheep killed by dogs was 76. The number of Hogs died of Cholera 179.

During the township campaign in 1877, Dr. T. J. Fritts, a member of the General assembly was in charge of the Democratic campaign and a few days before the election, the candidate for Justice of Peace announced his withdrawal from the race. Dr. Fritts berated him for his action, telling him that he was as good as elected, and asked why he would do such a thing. The man replied "Doc, Do you know that those sons of bitches put out the rumor that I stole a hog, And if I hadn't withdrawn, they would have proved it!" "Thank God that we don't have any Crooked politicians today."

COWDEN BEFORE IT WAS

The hour of four o'clock was approaching and the school master stood at his desk with his hand suspended on the little bell with which he was wont to announce the adjournment for the day. The heavy silence of the school room was calling loudly for the great outside. Every pupil's eye was fixed upon the little bell. The teacher's hand descended and pandemonium burst forth with the wild boys and girls—the silence was broken by a roaring stream of exuberant youth running through the door. It was the old log school house just south of Cowden—near the southern edge of Cowden. Some ran east and some ran west, others north and others south. All talking, laughing and yelling lustily. The writer of this sketch was one of a group of boys who started westward. When we arrived at road running north and south (now Main Street of Cowden) we heard loud and angry tones and stopped suddenly to see two men standing in the road, one of them a large muscular man, who was shouting angry words at the other. The other a slender man who stood in front of him unperturbed and unafraid, with his accustomed, pleasant smile playing on his face as he listened to the angry words of the accuser. The slender man, an unconscious physiologist, by a soft answer turned away the other's wrath, said something which we did not hear. Instantly the angry man ceased to rage. Looking a little bit ashamed, he turned and walked rapidly northward. The slender man, with an increased smile went south. The angry man was Marcus M. Cowden and the slender man was Lewis G. Torrence, both respected citizens.

Mr. Cowden owned the land adjacent on the north and was a mechanic with a little repair shop near his residence. It was the spring of the year and daily the farmers of the vicinity flocked to his shop to have their plow shares sharpened and harrows and cultivators repaired, and as they waited for the repairs to be completed, Mr. Cowden would talk on all current topics, but just prior to that time he had heard somewhere that a railroad company intended to build a railway from Shawneetown, on the Ohio, northwestwards to Beardstown on the Illinois river.

Cowden had looked at the map and concluded that the railroad would certainly go across his farm, as enterprising and hopeful men are wont to do. He also conceived that there was a good chance for him to secure the location of a station and

BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL
COWDEN CENTENNIAL

Don (Cotton) Foster

Republican Candidate

SHERIFF

James Yockey

Republican Candidate

CORONER

Walter Rose

Republican Candidate

CIRCUIT CLERK

Philip Turner II

Republican Candidate

STATE'S ATTORNEY

subsequently a city on his farm and he talked and prophesied to his customers incessantly along that line. Lewis G. Torrence was the country correspondent for the Shelbyville paper at irregular intervals. He had been to Cowden's shop a few days before and heard Cowden's description of the Phantom city. When he arrived at home he composed a humorous article for the newspaper, assuming that Mr. Cowden's prophecy was indeed a fact, and located and described in detail the new railroad and the city that was growing up around it on Cowden's farm. The farmers who had their implements repaired and had heard the prophecy for weeks, laughed uproariously at Mr. Cowden until all his patience became exhausted, and hence, the wordy assault upon the perpetrator of the crime. For weeks and months he had been the butt of ridicule on account of it. No wonder he was angry, but there was another and better laugh coming. Some months later the news drifted into the community that a staff of railway engineers were surveying some twenty miles south of where Cowden now is. Mr. Cowden threw off his overalls, washed the sweat from his face and hands, put on his best suit of clothes, saddled his horse and set forth to meet them; and when he met the engineers he stayed with them until they got near his home, when he would go out to meet them every day. There was considerable community amusement among those who remembered his former earnest prophecies. In short, the railroad did go across Mr. Cowden's farm and did establish a station there as he had prophesied. He lost no time in surveying and recording a town plat upon which the present city of Cowden is now located. Mr. Cowden was an enterprising, forward looking man of considerable general talent and did more for that community, than any other citizen, toward securing the village or city, and no one laughed at him but everyone laughed with him when his prophecy came true. —J. E. Torrence.

COWDEN CITY

It was located on the south-east quarter of Sec. 4, T 9, R 3 and was surveyed and platted by John Maguier, April 15, 1872, under the direction of H. M. Cowden, for whom the prospective city was named. It consisted of 10 city blocks, all lying west of Mainstreet and running 5 blocks north from where the present grade school now stands. Its early growth was fraught with great promise, and in 1875 the Fowler & Hudson addition of twenty acres was made; then the Cleveland and Zeugler addition in 1874, of forty acres.

VILLAGE OF COWDEN

Aug. 26, 1875

At an election held in Cowden City Shelby County Illinois on the fourth day of June 1875 to decide the question of organizing a Village under the general Law or against Village organization under the general law.

The vote for Village organization under the General Law, was unanimous, there being 53 votes polled. Signed: J. F. Williams, Clerk. (This was the first and last time everyone has been in agreement).

At an Election held in the Village of Cowden, Shelby Co., Ill., for the election of Village Trustees, the following gentlemen were declared elected: G. W. Cleveland, M. D. Carlisle, W. W. Nance, C. W. Kelly, H. Ledbetter and C. E. Zeigler.

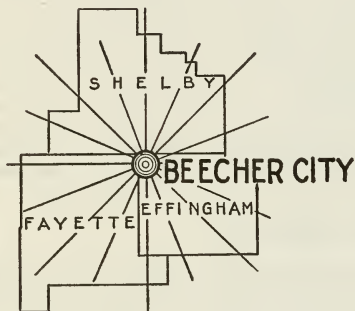
Signed: J. F. Williams, Clerk.

During the year of 1875 the town made quite a vigorous growth, and improvement was the prevailing order. During that year, three neat church edifices were erected, respectively, by the Christians, the United Brethren and Southern Methodists and Methodist Episcopal Church.

The first Dry Goods merchant was C. E. Ziegler, in 1872.

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At the time of organizing the Village of Cowden, the boundaries were: The east half of the southeast quarter of Section 4 and the west half of the south west quarter of Section 3 range three town nine Shelby County, Illinois.

EARLY ORDINANCES

Ordinances	Penalty	Public Safety	
Assault & Battery	3 - 50	Horses left unhitched	1 - 50
Disturbing the Peace	3 - 50	Fast driving	1 - 50
Challenging to Fight	3 - 50	Horse Racing	5 - 50
Discharging Firearms	50¢ - \$25	Driving horses on sidewalks	1 - 50
Drunkard or other person disturbing the peace	3 - 25	Hitching so as to obstruct sidewalks	1 - 20
Disturbing congregations	3 - 50	Boys hanging on cars	3 - 20
License for billard Table	25 - 100	Injury to trees	5 - 50
Dogs to be registered		Marshall to clear street crossings	
Public Indecency	5 - 50	Injury or damage to Public Property	5 - 50
Bawdy House	10 - 100	An ordinance establishing the Village Seal.	
Village Marshall may enter Bawdy House forcibly		An ordinance relating to license.	
Proof of General Reputation of Bawdy House		License for shows	
Man or Boy visiting Bawdy House	5 - 25	License for Transient Traders	
Stores closed on Sunday		License for Auctioneers	10 - 25
Gaming House	25 - 100	Relating to the license and regulation of Saloons	
Gaming for money	25 - 100		
Games of Chance	25 - 100		
Board of Health			

Keeper of Saloon to file a sufficient bond.

Sale of liquor to minors.

Time when saloons are to be closed.

Marshall permitted to enter Saloons at all hours.

Games for money prohibited in Saloons.

Keeper of Saloons to maintain an orderly house.

Fees of clerk for issuing license shall be \$1.

Revoking of license shall rest exclusively with the Village Trustees.

Arrest and trial for violating of ordinance regarding Saloons.

The foregoing ordinances were all adopted on August 4, 1875.

Some of the most unusual ordinances are as follows:

Sec. 5. Drunkard or other person disturbing the peace: That any person who shall be found drunk within the corporate limits of said Village of Cowden or in any way disturbing the peace shall upon conviction thereof be fined in any sum not less than three, nor more than twenty-five dollars, for each and every offense.

Sec. 9. Public Indecency: That any person who shall within the corporate limits of said village be guilty of any indecent or lewd act or behavior or shall exhibit or sell, or offer to sell any indecent, lewd or obscene book, picture or photograph or shall publicly make any indecent exposure of his or her person, or shall appear in a public place in a state of nudity, or shall be guilty of open lewdness, or shall publicly utter any profane, obscene or indecent words or language, shall, upon conviction thereof be fined in a sum of not less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars for each offense.

Sec. 4 no. 4. Bawdy Houses. That any person who shall be found guilty of

"BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL
COWDEN CENTENNIAL"

Robert A. Collins

Democratic Candidate

Sheriff of Shelby County

Charles R. (Bob) Hayden

Democratic Candidate

Circuit Clerk of Shelby County

Gilbert A. Brummerstedt

Democratic Candidate

Coroner of Shelby County

Robert Lee Broverman

— Chairman —

Shelby County Democratic Committee

keeping or maintaining, or shall be an inmate of, or in any way contribute to the support of any bawdy house, or disorderly house or house of ill fame, or place for the practice of fornication, or knowingly own or be interested as proprietor of any such house in the village of Cowden, or within one mile of the outer limits of said village, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars for each offense.

Sec. 3: Village Marshall may enter Brawdy House Forcibly. It shall be lawful for the village Marshall, with warrant and upon complaint being made before the Police Magistrate or a Justice of Peace, of the keeping of any Bawdy house, disorderly house, house of ill fame or of a grigsiation or place for the practice of fornication within said village, to enter such peaceably, or forcibly if resistance be made, and arrest any and all persons found therein, and to take them before the Police Magistrate or a Justice of Peace for trial.

Sec. 4: Proof of general reputation of Bawdy House. That whenever in any trial before the Police Magistrate or any Justice of Peace in said village for the violation of any provisions of this ordinance, it shall be material to prove the purpose for which anyhouse in said village, is or may be, used or kept. It shall be lawful to introduce evidence touching the general character and reputation of such house and the inmates thereof.

Sec. 5. Man or boy visiting Bawdy House. That any man or boy who shall visit any house of ill fame or Backy house in the village of Cowden, except as a Police Officer of said village, shall be fined in a sum not less than five nor more than twenty-five dollars for every offense.

No. 6, Sec. 1. Horses left unhitched. That any person who shall leave a team of horses, mares or mules or one horse, mare or mule, hitched to a buggy or other vehicle, within the corporate limits of the village of Cowden without hitching them to a rack or some other suitable and secure place, shall upon conviction thereof, be fined in a sum of not less than one, nor more than fifty dollars, for each offense.

Sec. 2. Fast driving. That any person who shall ride or drive any horse, mule or any other animal or animals at any unmoderate speed within the Village of Cowden, shall upon conviction thereof be fined in a sum not less than one, nor more than fifty dollars, for each offense.

Sec. 3. Horse Racing. That any person or persons who shall in any way be engaged in any horse race or mule race within the corporate limits of the Village of Cowden, shall upon conviction thereof, be fined in a sum of not less than five, nor more than fifty dollars, for every such offense.

Sec. 4. Driving Horses, etc. on Sidewalks. That any person who shall drive, ride or lead any horse, mare, mule or other animal on any of the sidewalks within the limits of the Village of Cowden, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not less than one, nor more than fifty dollars, for each offense.

Sec. 5. Boys hanging on Cars. That any Boy or Boys under the age of Twenty years shall stand upon or shall hang or swing upon any train of cars within the corporate limits of the Village of Cowden, either when the same is in motion or standing still, shall, upon conviction thereof be fined in a sum not less than one, nor more than twenty dollars, for each offense. Provided, this section shall not be construed as including those who take passage on trains.

License for Auctioneers. That any person who shall follow the business of an auctioneer within the corporate limits of the Village of Cowden, without first obtaining a license, shall upon conviction thereof be fined in a sum of not less than ten, nor more than twenty -five dollars, for every such offense.

No. 9 Sec. 1. Saloons not be kept without License. No person nor persons shall hereafter, by agent or otherwise, sell, barter, exchange or give away any intoxicating, malt, Vinous, mixed or fermented liquors to be drank in, upon or about the building or premises where sold, or to be drank in any adjoining room, building or premises of either place of public resort connected with said building within the corporate limits of the Village of Cowden, without having first obtained in the manner herein after prescribed.

Annual Appropriation Bill, August 9, 1875. For the construction of a Village Prison, One hundred and fifty dollars.

Be it ordained by the President and board of Trustees of the Village of Cowden, Shelby Co. That the fees of Village Clerk shall be 8¢ for each (100) words and 8¢ for each (100) words posted up, and 50¢ for attending each meeting of the board.

The treasurer fees be five dollars for the term of one year.

Attorney's fees be \$2.00 for each case of conviction; where fine and costs are collected.

Councilmen's fees be 50¢ each for each regular meeting.

Dec. 5, 1876: Sidewalks shall be constructed in said village as follows:

The first sidewalk shall be constructed on the east side of Grand Ave. from Schneitzers Shoe shop to north side of Pine St.

The second sidewalk shall be constructed on the west side of grand avenue from Randolph street to Torrence street.

The Third sidewalk shall be constructed on the north side of Randolph street from Cowden Street to grand avenue.

The fourth sidewalk shall be constructed on the south side of Locust street from grand avenue to Third street.

The fifth sidewalk shall be constructed on the north side of Pine street from grand avenue to third street.

Sec. 2. Said sidewalks shall be of the width of four feet except on grand avenue which shall be of the width of six feet, and be made of good solid oak on pine boards one inch thick securely nailed to three oak sleepers two by four inches thick, except on Grand avenue where there shall be four two by four inches thick and the Grade of the said sidewalks shall be the same as the grade of the streets upon which they are laid. The same shall be paid by Special Taxation of said Lots and parcels of land sufficient to defray the entire cost of construction to defray the entire cost of said sidewalks.

No. 15 Sec. 1. Be it ordained that a poll tax of two days work be and is hereby assessed upon all persons who are required by law to work on the public highways, such work may be avoided by paying to the street commissioner the sum of three dollars, within three days after the time he is notified to work.

Sec. 2. If any person after appearing remain idle or not work faithfully or hinder others from working, such offender shall for every offense forfeit to the town the sum of two dollars. Estimating every two dollars collected as a satisfaction for one days work.

Sec. 3. Persons furnishing a cart, wagon or plow, with a pair of horses or oxen and a man to manage them, shall be entitled to a credit of two days service herewith.

No. 18 Sec. 4. That the street commissioner fees be one dollar and fifty cents for each days service.

Ordinance No. 44. Be it ordained by the President and Board of Trustees of the village of Cowden that the Charleston, Neoga and St. Louis Rail Road Company shall have the use of and the right to lay down a steam T. T. track on Pine Street through the Village of Cowden Illinois. Provided, also that said Rail Road Company shall comply with Section Twenty of Charter One hundred and fourteen of the Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois of 1874. Provided, further, that there be no switch or side track constructed or put down in the Village of Cowden, Illinois, East of the West line of Cowden Street.

Said ordinance to be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication, dated the May 29, 1881. Published May 1881. W. H. Burrow, Pres. J. N. Hors, Secy.

Masonic Lodge:

Lodge No. 706, A. F. & A. M. was instituted October 8, 1873, with L. H. Williams, W.M.; S. W. Torrence, Secy.; T. Inman, S. W.; J. T. Jones, J. W.; L. G. Torrence, Secy.; N. P. Pinckney, Treas.

I. O. O. F.

Lodge No. 548, known as Okaw Lodge, was instituted Oct. 14, 1874, with the following charter members: C. Burrows, V. G.; D. Sandford, Secy.; Perry Daniels, C. E. Zeigler, H. L. Watson, and J. E. Brown. First officers: C. E. Zeigler, N. G.; C. Burrows, V.G.; D Sandford, Secy.; Perry Daniels, Treas.

By 1879 Cowden had grown to include the following businesses: Dry Goods, C. E. Zeigler, Fremont Frazee, S. P. Powers. Grocers, Wr. Gross, J. H. Christy, T. C. Headon. Restaurant, H. J. Conrad. Hardware, A. Fuehring. Blacksmith, Wm. Clark & Son, Pinkley & Rinehart. Wagon Makers, Wm. Chatam, Jno. Merryman. Butchers, A. M. Stitt, John L. Frailey. Shoemakers, C. C. Fry, J. N. Horn & Co., Wm. Schnitzke. Milliners, Mrs. C. Comstock, Mrs. N. J. Woodward & sister. Physicians, M. D. Carlisle, S. T. McDermith, John Holin, John Kendel. Hotel, Wm. Rosor & Son. Grist and Saw Mill, Lockhard & Pollard. Grain Dealers, Wm. Brownback & Co., Frazee & Hudson, W. Dunaway. Stock Dealer, Geo. Frailey. Station Agent, Victor Robson. Post Master, S. Severns. American Express Agent, C. E. Zeigler.

Cowden Methodist Church

During the years of 1861-65, Frank Corley, a local preacher of Tower Hill formed a class of twelve, being Levi C. Cochran, Wm. A. Petty, Mrs. Sally Frizzell, Nancy Petty and Elizabeth Cochran at Pleasant Grove School, from which sprang the Cowden Methodist Church.

A part of the Pleasant Grove group removed their membership to Cowden after the town was begun and met regularly in the old log school house on the branch in the south part of town on main street.

Immediately after the war closed, the Rev. Isaiah Villars was the first regular appointed preacher in 1866.

During the ministry of Rev. I. N. Rhodes, the idea of building a church was projected and the new church was completed and dedicated in the fall of that year. The circuit at that time was composed of Cowden, Robinson Creek, Lake-wood and Pleasant Grove, and remained so until about 1889, when it was changed

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to Cowden, Lakewood and Herrick. In 1891, Herrick was severed from the circuit. In 1906 Cowden became a station.

Rev. Villars in telling of his service, stated that in 1866 there was no Cowden and no railroad. He further stated that he had built two churches, bought a parsonage and had a fight, all in one year.

In 1910 the old church was moved several feet to the west and the present church was erected and the old church remodeled and was used as a Sunday School room.

The church was dedicated on Sunday, April 24, 1910 and at the end of the evening services \$11,185.00 had been pledged to cover the entire cost.

Inserted in the cornerstone was a New Testament, Discipline, Issue of the Cowden Reflector, Cornerstone laying program, subscription card, historical sketch and a list of all church officers.

In 1919 the church was remodeled to lower the ceiling at a cost of approximately \$6,000.00. In 1972 the auditorium of the church was again remodeled.

First Christian Church

In the summer and fall of 1898, Mr. Cline and Mr. Shick pitched a tent on a vacant lot in Cowden. As a result of their efforts, a congregation was started. On April 16, 1899 a building committee and advisory committee was appointed. Subscriptions were taken for the building of a Church, (Christian Church) at a cost of around \$1,500.00.

W. Bedell was the minister at this time. In January, 1901, the congregation voted to borrow \$125.00 to finish paying off the debt of the Church building, with the help of the ladies aid.

The congregation met in this building for worship until it saw the need of a new building, which is the present building, First Christian Church. It being dedicated December 24, 1922 by H. H. Peters.

Cowden Free Methodist Church

This church was organized by the Rev. W. B. M. Colt on the 20th day of November, 1881 with the following charter members: Milton and Nettie Hunter, D. A., L. J. and Mary J. Torrence, Cathearn Christy, Sam Fowler, James Frizell and Sally Frizell, Melvina Neff, W. N. and Jane Black.

The first Church was erected in 1882 and was located directly across the street from the main entrance of the present church. This church was used until another church was built in 1915 on the site of the present church. This church, a frame building was destroyed by fire on Jan. 27, 1963.

The new church was started in May of 1963 and completed in time to hold services for the first time on Easter Sunday of 1964. This church is one of the most modern planned buildings in this part of the state.

COWDEN DISTRICT CAMP MEETING

In the early nineteen hundreds, members of the Cowden District Free Methodist Church held a camp meeting on land one-half mile southeast of Cowden in a beautiful wooded area where a spring furnished water for the camp.

The campers arrived with mother and father riding in a wagon seat, while the

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wagon itself held straw-ticks, (to be filled with straw provided on the grounds), the wood cook stove, a table, a few chairs, a lantern, some chickens, either in coops or tied by the legs, the children, a hymn book and Bible. In many cases, a cow was tied to the back of the wagon, and possibly the dog walked under the wagon in the shade. After having made the family as comfortable as possible, father would find a farmer from whom he could rent pasture for his horses until the end of camp.

Usually the camp meeting lasted ten days. The services were held in a cloth tabernacle and the campers lived in tents with straw floors.

Improvements have been made during the years, a well was dug which furnished good water for many years. The spring water was not sufficient as the number attending grew. Later in the twenties, a small dining hall was erected. The original still stands with at least two additions, having been made. The camp, now gets its water from the Cowden water department.

The kerosene lantern was replaced by the Coleman lantern, and now the grounds are lighted by power from the R.E.A. lines.

Meals are prepared on electric ranges in the dining hall replacing the wood burning stoves. The ice man no longer comes daily to provide ice for the ice boxes, but large electric refrigerators keep foods at proper temperatures.

Forty-three cabins and three dormitories replace the rows and rows of tents.

The late M. A. Constant of Decatur and the late Rev. J. G. Yeck were among the first to build cabins on the grounds.

Services are held in a large tabernacle which was built about 1955. The original one burned the previous winter.

The most recent addition to the grounds is a modern shower house, and modern sanitation facilities.

Large numbers of people come every year in cars, campers, and trailers, but no wagons.

The camp has been held on these grounds for more than seventy years. The land was given to the Cowden District of the Free Methodist Church by David Torrence, known to most who knew him as "Uncle Dave."

THE OLD SOLDIERS & SETTLERS REUNION

In the year of 1910 Cowden had a two day reunion of veterans of previous wars. It was held at the Camp meeting grounds. This was held annually for several years. Among the main attractions were a balloon ascension each day. This was a gas and hot air filled balloon filled by burning wood and coal, and was held immediately north of the camp meeting grounds. Another main attraction was the dagger thrower, throwing daggers and pinning his wife to a huge board by surrounding her with daggers. People would come to Cowden on the B. & O. R. R. and would be met by a Hack driven by Shorty Thomas and taken to the Camp Grounds for the sum of five cents. There were all kinds of carnival games and one where if you hit a round target about 5 inches in diameter it tripped a seat and a man fell into a tank of water.

Newspapers of Cowden

In 1881 The Cowden Herald was first published every Saturday by E. W.

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Anderson & Co. In 1884 Mr. F. A. Warden published the Cowden Banner and this was published under this ownership until 1891 when W. H. Taylor took charge.

On March 18, 1892 the Cowden Reflector was established by O. A. Jewett. It was independent in politics for years, when it became a Republican paper.

There have been newspapers started in Herrick. The last one there was by J. A. Quickwall, who moved his plant to Strawsburg in 1899.

Among the advertisers in the Cowden Herald in 1888 were: Fish, the Photographer, Razor Bros—Livery & Feed Stable, A. J. Connor—Restaurant & Confectionery, Askins & Clark—Barbers & Hairdressers, The Central House—J. T. Simpson, Prop., M. Christy—Bakery & Confectionery, Grocery & Provision store, G. N. Gilbert—dentist, Dr. S. J. Jones—Physician & Surgeon, Dr. C. H. Carr, Physician & Surgeon, Torrence & Sharrock—Attorneys at Law, J. Hornsbeck's Cash Grocery, A. Fuhring—Hardware, Chas. E. Zeigler—Dry Goods, E. Morris Thomas, Auctioneer, A. McDonald—Saddles, Harness, Etc., J. M. Horn—The City Meat Market, D. N. Harwood—Tennessee Wagons, Hay Forks Hay Carriers, also advertised was Prickly Ash Bitters—Best Remedy for diseases of Liver, Kidneys, Stomach and Bowels, Wizard Oil—Cure Constipation, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Piles, Sick Headache, Liver Complaints, Loss of Appetite, Biliousness, Nervousness, Jaundice, etc., Price 25¢., and Cockles anti Bilious Pills.

The fare from Cowden to the Democratic Convention in St. Louis will be only \$2.50 for the round trip.

H. M. McGilvary, Agent of the Narrow Gauge railroad at this place, left on Wednesday on a visit to his parents in Madison Co.

Forty pounds of Hominy, 17 lbs. of Prunes, 16½ lbs of Sugar, or 5 lbs., of Coffee for \$1.00 at Burrow's.

Wm. L. Henderson, birch-wielder at the Town House School, in Fayette Co., was in Cowden last Saturday, seeing the sights and comparing country with city life.

A son of Rev. J. R. Reasoner, committed suicide last week. He gave as a reason that he could not overcome his habit of contracting debts. We feel like commending his example to O. A. Dubree, and a few others we know.

From Cowden Reflector March 12, 1903.

Last Saturday a woman called us up over the phone and asked us to have a pork roast sent up to her house. While we have a number of hogs on our subscription list, and they need roasting, there is a state law against killing them and we couldn't do anything for her and referred her to a meat market.

Dr. Carr removed a seventy-five foot tape worm from a patient last Wednesday. Two hours after taking the medicine the worm passed.

Items in the early newspapers were:

12/15/1893—Don't forget Perrymans 18¢ coffee.

1/14/1901—The firm of Fritts & Kesler was dissolved on Jan. 2, Mr. Kesler retiring.

1/6/1916—95 tramps and hobos have been taken care of at the village jail by Street Commissioner Fowler for nights lodgings during the month of December.

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The price for grain offered by the Cowden Co-Op was New Corn per bu. 45¢, Wheat 80¢, Oats 30¢.

Prices quoted in 1932: 22 rifle shells 15¢ 3 lb. side pork 25¢, Bacon 12½¢, 3 lb. Bacon Squares 25¢, Hominy large can 2 for 15¢.

11/17/1892—McLaughlin & Hornbeck had a sale and 7,102 people came through the doors.

May 29, 1936—Memorial services held at Free Methodist Church was the first time in history that there were no Veterans of the Civil War present, Mr. Mark Tucker, the last veteran having passed away.

THE OLD MILL



Immediately after the founding of Cowden, two gentlemen by the name of Lockhard and Pollard bought the Old Grist & Saw Mill at Williamsburg and had it moved to Cowden on the lot across the street north of the present Shell Station, at which time they improved and enlarged it.

In 1892 Mr. W. W. Wright bought the Mill and operated it until about 1914 when Orville Hawkins took over the operation. For over forty years a good grade of flour was ground at this Mill.

In 1890 the first light plant was put in operation by installing a generator to the steam engine that operated the mill. This plant furnished lights for the downtown section until the present light plant was built by the City.

On June 21, 1901 the light plant was sold to D. D. Brownback.

On Aug. 21, 1901 the Village of Cowden purchased the plant from D. D. Brownback for \$1700.00 and built the present plant.

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THE EARLY POST OFFICES

The first Post Office was opened in a building near the location of the present Perkins Restaurant. After a few years it was moved to a new building on Pine Street facing south $\frac{1}{2}$ block east of the present R.R. Crossing. The first Postmaster was Levi C. Cochran who was appointed April 4, 1872.

Mr. Cochran and his wife came to Illinois from Ohio. He was a Methodist Minister and built a church on his farm southwest of Cowden. After his term as postmaster he ran a Grocery for a few years. He was a Civil War Veteran and was the father of four children, namely, Alice, Laura, Dan and John.

THE WAR TIME CANNING FACTORY

In the year of 1917 W. W. Upperman, Chas. McClanahan and others started a canning factory located approximately 1 block North west of the present B.&O. R.R. Station. This factory was in operation only 3 or 4 years. They canned corn, beans and tomatoes and employed 8 or 10 women and 2 or 3 men. Everything was canned in tin cans, the lids soldered on leaving a small hole, the vegetables were then cooked and while still hot the hole was soldered shut. This factory went out of business after the war when food began to be plentiful.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS OF COWDEN

Prior to the establishment of Cowden as a Village, Marcus M. Cowden ran a small repair shop at his home. Around 1876 two blacksmith shops were opened. One by Wm. Clark & Son and the other by Pinkley & Rinehart. These were followed by a shop run by Albert Stigers who opened a shop immediately north of the Old Mill and another by John Smith which was located on the lot just south of the Texaco Station.

LIVERY STABLES OF COWDEN

The first Livery Stable was located at the site of the present Texaco Station and was operated by the Razor Bros. This was started in the 1880's.

The second Livery Stable was located directly south of the present Shell Station and was operated by William Hedrick. This was opened for business about ten years later.

The Razor Stable was constructed with a wooden floor and after trips to adjoining towns with traveling salesmen Mr. Razor, when his rig arrived back at the stable and the horses hoofs made the floor rattle, would get out of the carriage and crawl over in the manger and go to sleep. On one trip from Beecher City, after having a little too much to drink, he and his passenger went to sleep, knowing the horses would take them safely home. Upon driving on the Red Bridge over the Okaw River and the horses rattling the wooden floor, Mr. Razor woke and thinking he was back at his stable, crawled out of the buggy and over the bridge railing. The next thing his passenger knew was when Mr. Razor was calling for help and he was found hanging to an overhanging willow yelling "Help, I'm drowning."

EARLY POULTRY HOUSES



About the year 1900 Geo. Stegall constructed a poultry house, located on the north side of the present Shell Oil Station.

In the year of 1910 Mr. Stegall constructed a second poultry house on the south side of the lot where the present Lumber Yard is located. These poultry houses bought and dressed chickens and rabbits. For several years they shipped a car load of dressed chickens and undressed rabbits to New York City every week. Among those who worked there were: Claude Phipps, Guy Scovil, Fremont Daniels, Dale Torrence and John Hall. One week they shipped 1500 dressed turkeys to New York City.

STOCK YARDS OF COWDEN

In the early days of Cowden there were stock yards on both railroads. The one on the B.&O. was located directly across the tracks from the present R.R. Station. The larger was located south of the tracks of the Nickle Plate R.R. west of the present station. This yard was a flourishing business capable of holding several hundred cattle. The empty cars waiting for loading usually accomodated a poker game during the summer months.

COWDEN'S DARKEST DAYS

In April 1920, Mr. Lotus Dayton a native of Cowden went beserk. He had been confined in the State Institution at Kankakee and later was confined in Jacksonville on the 30th of November, 1918 and escaped on the 18th of April, 1919.

In April 1920, Dayton picked up his shotgun, filled his pockets with shells and started to hunt down a Mr. Wilis Lockart. For two days he roamed the streets of Cowden and on the 14th he took a chair from the Razor Livery, put it in the middle of Main Street, and took command of the village. While he thus commanded the block, Dr. Cherry, who had known Lotus all of his life attempted to pacify him. He walked within 15 or 20 feet of him, at which time Mr. Dayton stood up, leveled gun at the Doctor's head and said, "Doc, if you take another step you're a dead man." Dr. Cherry talked to him a few minutes and retired.

On May 12, 1920, Dayton mortally wounded Deputy Sheriff Sidney Biggs at about 3:30 P.M., when he attempted to arrest Dayton on the main street of Cowden. This was the second time within the week that the Sheriff and deputies had attempted to arrest Dayton, as on Monday, Dayton had gone on a rampage and patrolled the business streets of the town, threatening to kill anyone who attempted to arrest him. Not desiring to injure Dayton by shooting at him nor to endanger the bystanders, they did not attempt to use force and his arrest was not made on Monday, as they intended to return and get him when he had calmed down and had stopped carrying a gun.

However, on Wednesday morning, Dayton was again riled and went on the war-path when someone slipped into his home and relieved him of his gun while he was uptown. Upon returning home and finding his gun gone, Dayton proceeded to the home of his uncle, George Lockart, two miles south of town, and gained possession of his double barrel shotgun. Returning to town he proceeded to threaten the life of another uncle, W. R. Lockart, whom he suspected of taking his gun earlier that morning, and told bystanders on the street to brighten their shovels and dig a hole for W. R. Lockart because he was going to kill him.

Not finding W. R. Lockart, he discovered George Lockart standing in the lobby of the First National Bank, just a few minutes after Sid and Bill Biggs had arrived in town and entering the bank, told George to get out on the outside. George remonstrated with him telling him that he had done nothing, but Dayton was still forcing him out the door with the gun pointed at him. After getting out on the street, Dayton kept growling and quarreling with Lockart and flourishing his gun in a threatening manner, evidently intending to kill him. Later, while his wounds were being dressed, Dayton said that he had intended to kill Lockart, but did not intend to kill Biggs, but that he had to as he was so close upon him before he knew it.



The beginning of the trouble this time started on Sunday evening at the Dayton home when Dayton became enraged at his mother and slapped her. His father, Henry Dayton, took the mother's part and Lote gave him a beating. The father notified Sheriff Biggs on Monday and asked him to arrest him and return him to the asylum at Jacksonville from which place he had escaped twice and returned

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to Cowden. The consensus of opinion here was that Dayton was not insan at this time. When Dayton found out on Monday that the Sheriff had been sent for, he created excitement by coming into the business section with a loaded shotgun and defying anyone to come near him. He anticipated his arrest and sat in the middle of the street so that he could command a view from all directions. The streets promptly cleared and he was given all the room he wanted.

Sheriff Will Biggs arrived and went alone to Dayton's house telling him he wanted him to get in the car with him. Dayton refused to go and threatened Biggs at that time. The sheriff returned to the business section of town and telephoned for Sid and Floyd to come. When the deputies reached here, Dayton was well worked up and pacing the streets with his gun.

The Biggses looked over the situation and consulted as to what was best to do without anyone being killed or injured, and being advised from the office of the State's Attorney not to take any lives if possible, they decided to let the matter rest for awhile and until Dayton cooled down, when they expected to make the arrest without bloodshed.

When Sid and Will arrived Wednesday, they were each armed with pump guns and succeeded in locating their man before he knew they were in town. They were in Nance Bros. Hardware Store and planned to get Dayton as he came down the street. However, the fight was made premature by Dayton's tilt with George Lockart at the bank corner. At this point, Sid and Will went out on the street and started for Dayton. Sid approached Dayton and commanded him to throw up his hands. Instead, Dayton whirled, threw his gun up to his shoulder, and as he do so, the barrel of his gun struck the barrel of Sid's gun and elevated it, both pulling the trigger practically at the same time. Sid's shot missed but Dayton's aim was true to the head. The men were so close that the shot and wads went in a bunch from Dayton's gun and tore away Sid's right eye, temple and a portion of the skull. He fell mortally wounded on the pavement at the bank corner with his body on the pavement and his head to the west.

At the time of the shooting, after wounding Biggs, Dayton turned his gun on Will Biggs, who ducked at the opportune time. Dayton's shot went over his head, while the shot from Wm. Biggs' gun struck Dayton in his hands.

After the shooting Mr. Dayton started running east and at the time he arrived at the alley, Mr. Shorty Thomas, the village Marshall, started shooting at him from the roof of the building, which is now the Fireside Restaurant, and Mr. C. E. Zeigler started shooting from his office door which was located immediately in the rear of the Bank. One of these marksman hit Dayton in the hip and brought him down just as he reached the alley.

Several bystanders were shot during the street fight, Lloyd Johnson of Stewardson, received seven shots in the leg. Sam Fowler, Isaac Robertson, James Mitchell and a Mr. Slifer received a few shots each, none serious.

After the shooting some one dragged Dayton into the Cihak Garage, where he lay for some time. Mr. Bill Biggs, after seeing his brother and knowing that he was dying, went to the garage and was in the act of killing Dayton, and would have done so had he not been persuaded not to by several local men.

Dayton was put on the 5 o'clock passenger on the B& OR.R. and taken to Pana and the following day was taken to Shelbyville on the Big Four R.R.

Dayton's train was met at Shelbyville by several hundred people and while Dayton was being transferred from the train to a waiting ambulance, someone threw a rope out over the crowd and shouted, "Take him to the trestle," which was

a short distance away. It was a very tense moment and for lack of a leader, the hanging was not carried out. This part of the Dayton episode was witnessed by the writer, who rode in the ambulance. The Grand Jury indicted Mr. Dayton on June 10, 1920. Mr. Aubrey Yantis was the State's Attorney and William M. Moran, Jr. was the attorney for the defense.

The Witnesses called for the trial were:

Henry Dayton	Dr. Bryant	Carey Bechtel
Dr. Johnson	Marion McNear	S. S. Scovil
Chas. Sansden	Wm. Nance	Sam Lorton
Vint Aye	Hattie Torrence	Wm. D. Thomas
N. J. Rasor	David Torrence	Dr. Cherry
C. Howe	Mrs. Emma Hipkins	Harry Bivins
Hode Funk	Mont Middlesworth	Geo. Rand, Sr.
C. E. Zeigler	J. H. Smith	Lee Taylor
E. P. Zeigler	J. G. Jones	David Lockart
A. W. Moore	O. A. Jewett	Jasper Montgomery
B. E. Prater	Dr. E. M. Montgomery	Edw. Carlyle
Dr. J. B. McCauley	Wilse Lockart	Arnold Torrence
Henry Askins	Hershel Johnston	Will Chaney
W. F. Bollembaugh	Dr. Turney	Sam Fowler
H. S. Myers	Homer Scovil	A. G. Mizell
Geo. Sweazy	Edw. Nance	F. P. Bivins
Andrew Wakefield	Bert King	W. R. Lockart
Geo. Lockart	Z. T. Moore	J. Q. Adams
F. Anderson	Claude Shellenbarger	Dave Lockart
Chas. Peifer	J. W. Conrad	Clifford Shellenbarger

At the first hearing Mr. Dayton plead not guilty and his attorney asked for a continuance, on the grounds that he had not been able to talk to this client until he arrived in court. The continuance was granted. At the next hearing a change of venue was asked and subsequently turned down. The trial was finally set for the November term and at that time Mr. Dayton changed his plea to Guilty and was sentenced to Chester penitentiary for the rest of his natural life.

COWDEN'S BRIGHTEST DAY

Today is Cowden's Brightest day, with everyone pulling together for the future success and prosperity of everyone.

Today Cowden enjoys four churches, a new bank, a new and finest restaurant in the county, a new post office, a new super market, a new lumber yard, expanded elevator facilities, 8 new units being planned for the aged, over ten new homes built in the last few years, two new homes under construction, our sewage facilities are being updated, one of the finest water systems in the country, natural gas, a new telephone building and system, R.E.A. electricity, a new federally financed road from Cowden to Stewardson, route 128 widened and resurfaced, and a new high school and a new consolidated school district with Herrick.

Cowden's streets are the finest they have ever been. We have a dog pound, free clean up of all rubbish each year, free tree planting for anyone wishing trees on the boulevards, sidewalks built with all labor furnished free and a garbage service available. We have no air pollution and the village attempts to keep all weeds mowed each summer.

In all it is a wonderful place to raise a family or for retired people to live.

Make today, tomorrow and the future Cowden's brightest days.

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Mr. Robert Broverman	Mr. and Mrs. James S. Moore
Miss Delores Bruns	Mr. Robert E. Moore
Miss Marie Bruns	Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Moore
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Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Cosart	Shelby Electric Co-op
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